

Remarks/Arguments

The examiner in an Office Action dated 6 January 2004 rejected all the pending claims 1-13. As such this Office Action and the references cited therein have been carefully considered and this amendment is now presented in an effort to comply with Patent Office requirements and advance prosecution of the application.

With this amendment the applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 6 to limit the frame to an integral sheet metal frame.

The examiner rejected claims 1-7, under 35 USC 102, as being anticipated by Puncochar. The examiner rejected claims 8-13, under 35 USC 103, as being obvious over one embodiment of Puncochar in view of another embodiment of Puncochar. Puncochar discloses a hold down clip 22 that is adjustably mounted to a base plate 7 by adjustment bolt 25 and adjustment nut 3. A spring 2 biases the hold down clip 22 away from the base plate 7. The hold down clip 22 has a foot portion 23 adjacent the base 7, a connecting arm 1 extending over the knife back 9 and a pad portion 24 holding the knives 10 in position.

None of the Puncochar embodiments disclose a sheet metal frame as called for in newly amended independent claims 1 and 6 and original independent claim 8. From the Puncochar drawings it appears that the hold down clip 22 is a cast part and not sheet metal. The examiner's attention is directed to column 2, lines 54-56 where Puncochar states:

"Accordingly, one important object of the present invention is to provide a hold down clip of simplified structure..."

The Puncochar structure is much more complicated than the sheet metal frame defined by the presently pending claims, as such these claims are not anticipated or rendered obvious by Puncochar. Furthermore, the newly amended independent claims 1 and 6 call for an integral sheet metal frame and the Puncochar frame is not integral comprising multiple pieces, base plate 7 and hold down clip 22.

In conclusion, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Appl No. 10/620,657
Amdt Dated 18 March 2004
Reply to Office Action of 6 January 2004

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Respectfully,



Attorney for Applicant(s)

Kevin J. Moriarty
Reg. No. 31,045
Patent Department
Deere & Company
One John Deere Place
Moline, IL 61265
Telephone No. (309) 765-4048

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